and depleted of its mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) by treatment with ethidium bromide. DWFb1 was entirely dependent on glycolysis for energy requirements and was auxotrophic to uridine and pyruvate. A few days after the final complement fixation step, DWFb1 cells were layered on the cardiomyocytes and allowed to attach for 4 hours at 37°C (fusing the ρ° cells with primary cells in culture). The cells were fused with a 50% polyethylene glycol (PEG) solution for one minute, excess PEG was removed, the cells were gently rinsed in 10% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in culture medium, and subsequently grown under selection in uridine-free Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) F-12 medium supplemented with 12.5% dialysed Fetal Bovine serum (FBS). This selection will eliminate the mtDNA-less cells (ρ°) cells that have not fused with the cardiomyocytes (selecting cells for a cell line).--

B1

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) An immortalized human cardiomyocyte cell line wherein the cell line is produced by a method comprising the step of fusing a post-mitotic primary non-immortalized human cardiomyocyte with a human fibroblast, the fibroblast

B2

(a) having been treated with ethidium bromide,